



DUDLEY

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Dudley is a rural, upland college town with two major rivers, the Quinebaug and the French. After King Philip's war, in 1684, the Nipmuck Indians sold large tracts of land to colonists and the town was populous enough to be incorporated in 1731. It was the first town incorporated after the formation of Worcester County.

The town was at first seen as unsuited for agriculture, but the large number of ponds and reservoirs created in the 19th century provided ample water power for significant textile, manufacturing and industrial development. Along with its industrial base, and despite its reputation, Dudley maintained a large agricultural establishment, growing hay, grains and vegetables and raising sheep and cattle. The introduction of woolen mills made Dudley an industrial force in the county and by 1832, 40,000 yards of broadcloth and 70,000 yards of satinet was being produced by residents and French Canadian and Irish immigrants. The town's economy was dominated by the textile industry until the 20th century. In 1865, two million yards of linen and burlap were woven in Dudley. Modern Dudley still shows indications of its rural background from the poultry farms, dairy farms which produced milk, butter and cheese and vegetable and market gardens.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

South central Massachusetts, bordered by Southbridge on the west; Charlton on the north; Oxford on the northeast; Webster on the east; and Woodstock and Thompson, Connecticut, on the south. Dudley is about 22 miles south of Worcester, 40 miles east of Springfield, 59 miles southwest of Boston, and 156 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 22.06 sq. miles

Land Area: 21.05 sq. miles

Population: 9,540

Density: 453 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Buffumville Lake Station)

Normal temperature in January.....21.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.4"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Webster

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 943-2792

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1732

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	4,787		
Democrats	2,100	43.9	%
Republicans	434	9.1	%
Other parties	1	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,252	47.0	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Dudley town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	10,036	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	10,036	100.0
Male.....	4,973	49.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	202	2.0
Female.....	5,063	50.4	Mexican.....	31	0.3
Under 5 years.....	588	5.9	Puerto Rican.....	109	1.1
5 to 9 years.....	697	6.9	Cuban.....	13	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	744	7.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	49	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	825	8.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	9,834	98.0
20 to 24 years.....	687	6.8	White alone.....	9,615	95.8
25 to 34 years.....	1,395	13.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,664	16.6	Total population.....	10,036	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,392	13.9	In households.....	9,599	95.6
55 to 59 years.....	467	4.7	Householder.....	3,737	37.2
60 to 64 years.....	353	3.5	Spouse.....	2,147	21.4
65 to 74 years.....	646	6.4	Child.....	2,968	29.6
75 to 84 years.....	501	5.0	Own child under 18 years.....	2,322	23.1
85 years and over.....	137	1.4	Other relatives.....	340	3.4
Median age (years).....	35.9	(X)	Under 18 years.....	104	1.0
18 years and over.....	7,556	75.3	Nonrelatives.....	407	4.1
Male.....	3,701	36.9	Unmarried partner.....	259	2.6
Female.....	3,855	38.4	In group quarters.....	437	4.4
21 years and over.....	7,006	69.8	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	1,490	14.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	437	4.4
65 years and over.....	1,284	12.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	532	5.3	Total households.....	3,737	100.0
Female.....	752	7.5	Family households (families).....	2,669	71.4
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,291	34.5
One race.....	9,939	99.0	Married-couple family.....	2,147	57.5
White.....	9,718	96.8	With own children under 18 years.....	982	26.3
Black or African American.....	49	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	393	10.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	23	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	241	6.4
Asian.....	74	0.7	Nonfamily households.....	1,068	28.6
Asian Indian.....	23	0.2	Householder living alone.....	880	23.5
Chinese.....	10	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	393	10.5
Filipino.....	3	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,374	36.8
Japanese.....	5	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over ..	948	25.4
Korean.....	5	-	Average household size.....	2.57	(X)
Vietnamese.....	2	-	Average family size.....	3.04	(X)
Other Asian ¹	26	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	3,810	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,737	95.6
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	173	4.4
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	33	0.8
Some other race.....	75	0.7	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	97	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	4.5	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	3,737	100.0
White.....	9,809	97.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,655	71.0
Black or African American.....	79	0.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,082	29.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	60	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.76	(X)
Asian.....	90	0.9	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.11	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	10	0.1			
Some other race.....	94	0.9			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 88

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP): 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester region, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders in the east, I-190 connects to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 31, 131, and 197.

Rail

The Providence and Worcester Railroad provides freight rail service to Dudley. Contact number: (508) 755-4000 ext.310

Bus

Dudley is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) but does not receive services.

Other

Southbridge Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in nearby Southbridge, has a 3,500' x 75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.